

THE BAPTIST Record

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YEC attendees fill Miss. College campus

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

More than 2,500 young people and their sponsors heard youth evangelist Wade Morris' call for holiness, and rocked to the music of Christian soloist Jake Gullledge at the 2004 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) December 30-31 at Mississippi College in Clinton.

"Wade Morris is an incredible communicator who took the truth of God's Word and challenged our students with it. It was a beautiful sight to see as Wade gave the altar call for salvation and the number of students that came to receive Christ. That's what YEC is all about!" said Jay Fletcher, one of the coordinators of the event and single adult pastor at Pinelake Church, Brandon.

"Jake and his band were great as always. They were so sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and God used them musically to minister to all of us," Fletcher added. The worship sessions were rounded off with performances by the Christian drama team, A View from the Branch. "They were awesome. I am sure that they will be a part of another student event in the future," Fletcher said. "They tied together the music and teaching time so well through drama and our students really enjoyed them.

The drama they shared was so relevant to where our students are living."

In addition to the worship sessions, age-specific breakout groups were held at various locations around the MC campus and across the street at First Church, Clinton:

- Seventh and eighth graders, were led by Philip Wood, junior high pastor at Temple Church, Hattiesburg.
- Ninth graders, led by J.D. Simpson, executive director of First Priority-Hub City in Hattiesburg.
- 10th graders, led by Gary Permenter, of Permenter Ministries in Columbus.
- 11th and 12th graders, led by Wade Morris.
- Adult leaders, led by Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Kevin Jones, pastor of State Boulevard Church in Meridian.

"God has truly blessed the Youth Challenge Conference (YEC). What better way to create momentum in a youth group for the new year than to see youth being saved and being challenged to tell others about Jesus?" said Shannon Slover, who coordinated the event with Fletcher and serves as minister to youth at First Church, Laurel.



BACK OFF! — Members of the drama team A View from the Branch perform a scene set in a music store during the 2004 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Department December 31 at Mississippi College in Clinton. More than 2,500 people attended the annual two-day event held over the final two days of each year. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The annual YEC event is sponsored by the MBCB Evangelism Department and supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

"I also want to thank the people at Mississippi College and First Church in Clinton for allowing us to invade their campuses during the holiday time. They both make us feel so welcome and go the extra mile to help us with YEC, Fletcher said."

The 2004 YEC Committee members who

served with Fletcher and Slover included:

- Mark Williams of Agricola Church, Lucedale.
- Jon Kittrell of Shuqualak Church, Shuqualak.
- Jon Cooper of First Church, Amory
- Heather Lyons of Maybank Church, Hattiesburg
- Lori Schuler of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union staff in Jackson.

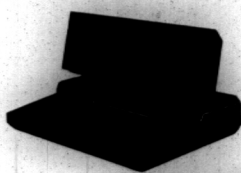


PREACHING THE WORD — Youth Evangelist Wade Morris of Birmingham served as the featured speaker during the 2004 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference December 30-31 at Mississippi College in Clinton. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



PRAISE THROUGH SONG — Christian soloist Jake Gullledge of Atlanta performs at the 2004 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference December 31 at Mississippi College in Clinton. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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The Statesman of the SBC

A giant among giants has fallen. We probably use descriptions like that too often with too little thought, but it is pure truth when applied to the life and ministry of James L. Sullivan.

While we celebrate the December 27 heavenly homegoing of Sullivan, the native Mississippian who served Southern Baptists for a lifetime as pastor, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), we still miss him deeply because he will not soon be replaced.

A leader from an early age — he was captain of the 1931 Mississippi College football team and a member of the school's Sports Hall of Fame — Mississippi Baptists named him their Clergyman of the Century in 1985.

After he retired from the Baptist Sunday School Board, he taught at Mississippi College and at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Because of his demeanor in the era in which he served so ably, Sullivan was often called the "Statesman of the Southern Baptist Convention." Those of us who knew Sullivan, even casually, understand the meaning of that statement.

"I have known some men in my lifetime that I thought were brilliant. I have also known some men who it seemed to me embodied the sweet spirit of Jesus, but I have not known anyone in whom those two things converged as beautifully as the life of Dr. James Sullivan," said Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"When I started in the ministry in 1962, Dr. Sullivan was already a significant leader in the SBC as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board. His knowledge of Baptist life and polity was widely recognized even then. He provided a role model for me and other preachers just beginning in ministry," said Gene

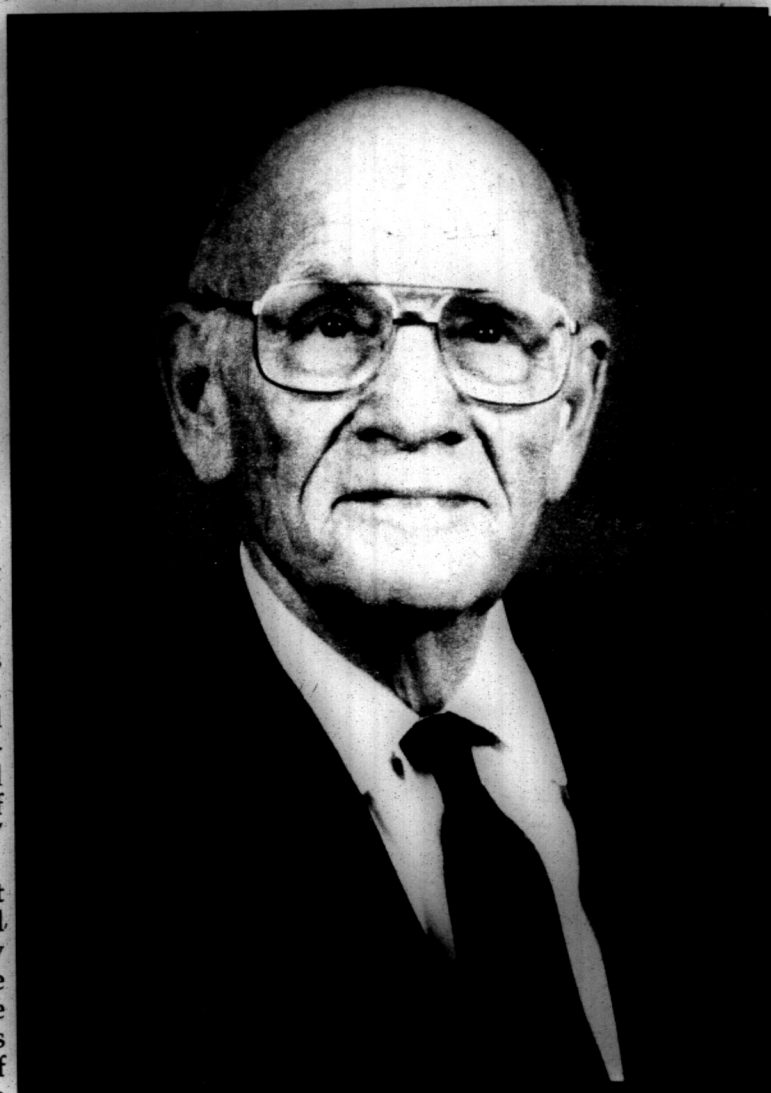
Henderson, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of First Church, Brandon.

"I was always proud to point out to my friends from other states that Dr. Sullivan was a Mississippian. I was always impressed when I heard him speak because he obviously was very knowledgeable and had a passion for the Lord, the church, and our denomination. His visionary leadership enabled the BSSB to become a dominant influence in Southern Baptist life.

"I am very grateful that I was privileged to know and to be influenced by the life and witness of this great man of God. Southern Baptists, and Mississippi Baptists especially, have been blessed through the ministry of James L. Sullivan," Henderson said.

"He was president at one of the most crucial times at the Sunday School Board during the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and '60s," said James T. Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly the Baptist Sunday School Board). "He led in production of materials promoting the biblical view of human worth, regardless of race, and modeled his beliefs by providing an equitable work environment for a multicultural staff.

"He was my friend and supporter, and a great statesman. His counsel, wisdom, knowledge of Baptist history and of the Southern Baptist Convention was incomparable. As we have worked to strength-



James L. Sullivan, 1910-2004

en the institution, he has given generously of his experience and insights to encourage us. Today our staff continues building on the foundation he laid.

"In a time when there are not many heroes, he has certainly been one of my heroes. I have lost a great friend."

Surely we have been in the presence of greatness. Lord, please send more giants like James L. Sullivan — and if it please You, we need them right away.

GUEST OPINION:



Why did God allow the tsunami?

By R. Albert Mohler, president
Southern Seminary — Louisville, Ky.

In light of the tsunamis, we must avoid attempting to explain what God has not explained. In the end, the Christian knows that all suffering — indeed every experience of life — is meaningful. We understand that God is revealing Himself in every moment of our existence. We also know that all suffering is ultimately caused by sin. That's about as politically incorrect an assertion as we can now imagine, but it is profoundly true. Even so, we must be very careful in how we present this truth. As Paul reminds us, the judgments of God are unsearchable and unfathomable (Romans 11:33).

Third, Christians must respond with the love of Christ and the power of the Gospel.

Relief efforts are now under way, and Christians should be at the forefront of this response. In offering concrete help and assistance, Christians are doing nothing less than following the express command and example of Jesus Christ.

Beyond this, Christians must seize this opportunity to confront this awful disaster with the life-changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Christians are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and clothe the naked in the name of Christ. This is a powerful testimony, but acts of compassion must be accompanied by words of conviction. Our answer to this reality of unspeakable tragedy must be witness to the Gospel of

unfathomable power — the power to bring life out of death.

Furthermore, we must indeed point to this disaster as only a hint of the cataclysm that is yet to come — the holy judgment of God. On that day, the tidal waves of Dec 26, 2004, will be understood to have been one of the warnings all humanity should have heeded.

This is no time for Christian equivocation or cowardice. In the face of tragedy and suffering on this scale, we must answer with the full measure of Christian conviction and the undiluted truth of Christianity. In this life, we are not given all the answers to the questions we might pose, but God has given us all that we need to know in order to understand our peril and His provision for us in Christ.

So, let us weep with those who weep, pray for those who suffer, give and go in missions of mercy, and bear bold witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not only in southern Asia, but right here at home.

Mohler's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Mississippi Baptists giving, preparing to go

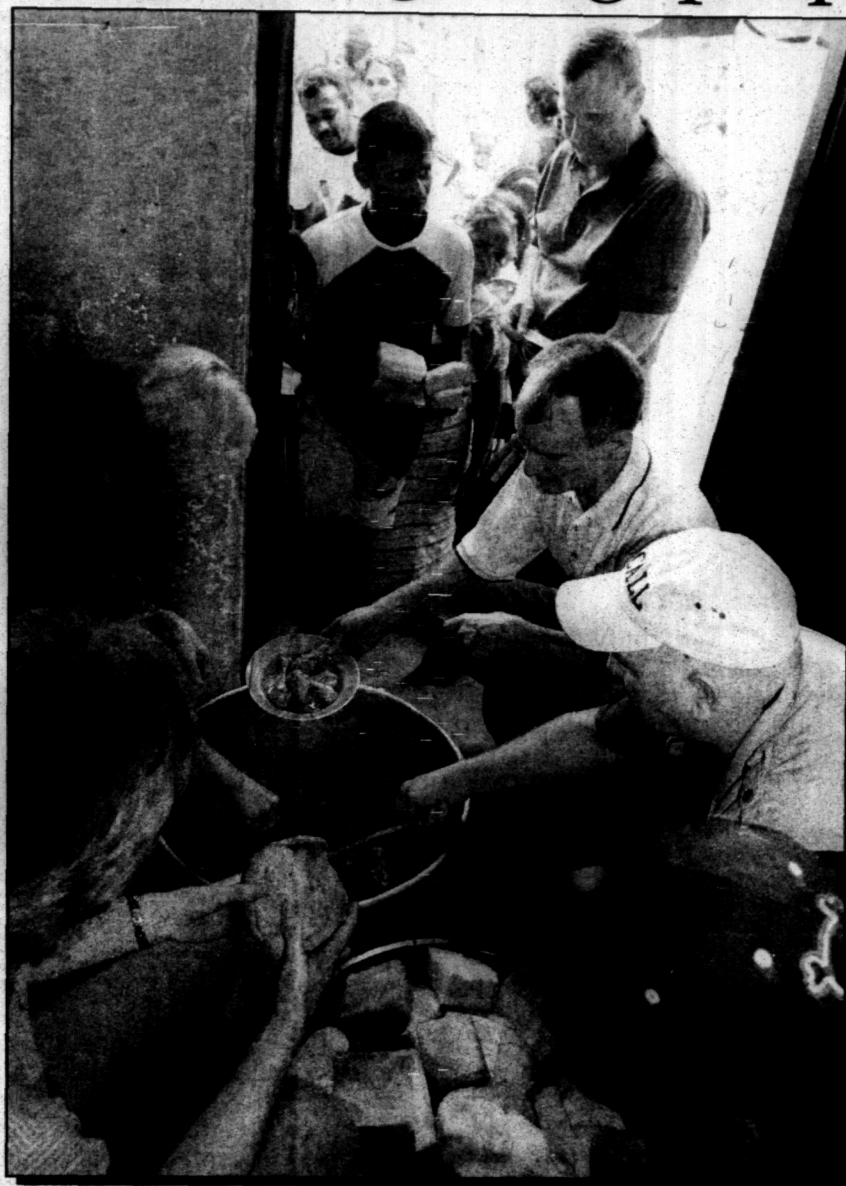
RICHMOND, Va. (BP and local reports) — Children have clean clothes and families have shelter. The sick have medicine and the hungry have food. The thirsty have water and the hopeless have newfound hope. All because of Southern Baptist gifts.

As of January 17, Mississippi Baptists had given \$63,140.34 to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Tsunami Relief Fund. As of Jan. 12, Southern Baptists as a whole had given \$2.7 million, according to the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va. Every penny of the donations will be used to ease the suffering of those affected by the Dec. 26 tsunami in Asia.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit, on standby since the tsunami struck, has been activated in coordination with the wider Southern Baptist relief effort and will soon be deployed to an unnamed area in the region, said Jim Didlake, MBCB Director of Men's Ministry and coordinator of Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts. Their destination will not be released because of security concerns.

In Sri Lanka, relief gifts have provided school uniforms for children whose homes and clothes were destroyed. The gifts have given safe drinking water, food, and shelter to Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and others. "Your gifts have gone directly to boys, girls, men, women, grieving families — people who have lost everything," reported David Garrison, regional leader for board work in South Asia. A video of his report from Sri Lanka is available for viewing or downloading at <http://imb.org>.

Relief work has opened doors. People are asking questions like, "How can I find my



HOT MEALS FOR HOMELESS — In Sri Lanka, Southern Baptists serve a breakfast of curry chicken and bread to those left homeless after the tsunami. (BP photo)

life again?" and "Where is hope?" Workers are sharing the answers with them.

In Banda Aceh, Indonesia, one of the hardest-hit areas, Southern Baptists are using relief funds to set up a public kitchen. "One of the big needs in this tsunami-ravaged area is the lack of facilities to pre-

pare food," said a Southern Baptist working there.

The public kitchen will provide food, drinking water, gas stoves, gas tanks, cooking utensils, and eating supplies — allowing people to cook food and boil water for themselves.

As workers in Banda Aceh minister to children, medical personnel are working alongside them to provide whatever medical care the children need.

Additionally, relief funds have provided personal hygiene kits and large amounts of food, water purification tablets, and medical supplies that may reach as many as 500,000 families in Indonesia. Medical teams will use five small water purification units to keep their hands and instruments clean.

Southern Baptist workers and volunteers will remain in the affected areas for a long time, using relief gifts to help people rebuild their lives. In Sri Lanka, workers expect to continue providing safe drinking water, food, and shelter. Eventually work may focus on helping people build new homes.

As emergency relief supplies begin to stack up at ports all around the area of Asia affected by the recent tsunami due to heavy donations and transportation problems, the most urgent need at present is monetary gifts to finance long-term efforts aimed at helping survivors rebuild their lives, say disaster relief officials on the scene.

A special relief fund has been established at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and tax

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LifeWay aids victims

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has announced plans to contribute \$50,000 to the \$1.4 million already donated to the International Mission Board (IMB) for disaster relief efforts in southeast Asia. "Our LifeWay family is concerned and compassionate," said LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr., noting that in addition to the corporate gift, more than 125 LifeWay employees sent individual gifts to the IMB's relief fund. "We feel it is a great privilege to share in this relief effort through giving to a fellow SBC entity. We have great confidence in the relief efforts of the IMB and know that 100% of our gifts will go to minister, both spiritually and physically, to Asia's poor." Draper also said that at a time when national news reports have questioned the ability of governments to properly and effectively handle the massive monetary donations, he is confident the IMB is equipped to minister to hundreds of thousands of survivors and help rebuild their lives. "At the same time, the physical and emotional ministry being performed is attended by a faithful witness of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ," he added. "We are privileged to participate in this effort." "We are deeply grateful to Dr. Jimmy Draper and the staff of LifeWay for the excellent relationship that we share and the support that we receive from them in accomplishing Kingdom work," said Gordon Fort, IMB vice president of overseas operations. "Our heartfelt thanks go to them for the recent financial gift that will be used to minister to the survivors of the tsunami disaster." LifeWay does not receive funds from the Cooperative Program, therefore the gift to the IMB is completely self-funded.

Looking back

10 years ago

Late-night televangelist Jack Van Impe's claim that United Nations troops and equipment are poised in Saucier for a massive invasion and takeover of the U.S. is a fabrication, according to an investigation by the Mobile Press-Register newspaper.

20 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation reports an increase in the foundation's total corpus for the 10th consecutive year, with Christian education drawing top support from donors across Mississippi and the country.

50 years ago

C. E. Wilbanks, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for the past three years, resigns that position to accept a position with the evangelism department of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Homosexual groups unite to push agenda

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — In the wake of severe Election Day setbacks, a coalition of more than 20 homosexual and liberal organizations released a joint statement Jan. 13 outlining their goals for the future and re-stating their commitment to fight for legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

"[W]hen we look at the state of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights today, we have every reason to be optimistic," the statement reads. "Our movement is strong, it is determined, and it is gathering momentum every day."

The 1,200-word statement comes more than two months after the same-sex marriage movement saw 11 states pass constitutional marriage amendments and America re-elect a conservative president that the homosexual movement opposed.

Since then, the homosexual community has undergone a self-examination while debating the legal tactics and political strategy they should use in the future.

The statement, embraced by 22 organizations, signals a unifying of sorts within the homosexual movement that hasn't been seen in weeks. It is signed by such prominent groups as the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian & Gay Rights Project, the Human Rights Campaign, and Lambda Legal.

In the statement the groups pledge to work toward eight goals, such as fighting to overturn the military's "don't ask, don't tell policy" and supporting the "freedom to marry."

Pro-family leaders say the movement's optimism flies in the face of election results. The amendments last November passed by an average of 70.1 percent of the vote. Mississippi voters recorded the highest percentage in the country in favor of their constitutional amendment. For the entire year, 13 of 13 amendments passed. A marriage amendment has never failed when placed before voters.

"I thought [the statement] was a very interesting spin on a severe setback for

**Marriage:
One Man,
One Woman**

their movement," Glen Lavy, an attorney with the pro-family Alliance Defense Fund, told Baptist Press. "The 13 marriage amendments passed last year were a real shock to the activists. They are simply out of touch with where the majority of Americans are in regards to marriage."

Lavy has been involved in the same-sex marriage legal battle, and in December represented pro-family groups in a gay marriage case before a California judge.

"[Homosexual activists] want so desperately to believe in their cause that it's difficult for them to accurately evaluate what most people think," he said.

In the statement the coalition claims the mantle of a "civil rights" movement.

"The histories of America's civil rights movements — and their successes in securing equal protection of the law for those denied it — have always been shaped by the complex interweaving of legal victories, political progress and advances in public opinion," the statement reads.

Although some black leaders have sided with the homosexual activist movement, others have been critical of the comparisons to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Bernice King, daughter of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., said last year of her father:

"I know deep down in my sanctified soul that he did not take a bullet for same-sex unions."

Carrie Gordon Earll, a senior policy analyst for Focus on the Family Action, also criticized the comparison to the civil rights movement.

"They continue to try and hitch a ride on the civil rights train, which was a legitimate claim of discrimination," she told BP. "... There's no such thing as a former African American. But I work with former gays. I know that there is a difference there."

The statement notes that, despite the setbacks on Election Day, 2003 and 2004 were full of victories for the homosexual activist movement.

"It has been only 18 months since the Supreme Court struck down the last remaining state laws that branded us as criminals, little more than a year since Massachusetts' top court ruled that same-sex couples could not be denied full equality in marriage and mere weeks since California enacted the nation's most expansive domestic partnership law," the statement reads.

"... The speed with which our movement is advancing on all fronts is absolutely historic — and it hasn't happened by chance or by accident."

The groups criticize what they label "anti-gay extremists" — presumably Christian conservative organizations. These extremists, the statement says, are "small but powerful" and manufacture "inaccurate stereotypes."

Exit polls showed that white evangelicals and born-again Christians made up 23% of voters in November.

"Wrapping themselves in cloaks of 'family' and 'values,' these groups are spending tens of millions of dollars to confuse, distort and subvert the public debate that continues to change hearts and minds about our right to equality as it opens America's eyes to the true family values that LGBT couples, parents and families are living and demonstrating every day," the statement reads.

BWA dispute results in charges, countercharges

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (ABP) — While Morris Chapman, president of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), says the fact retired SBC leaders are now raising money for the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) from SBC churches is "astounding and regrettable," one of his predecessors as SBC chief executive, Duke McCall, says Chapman and others opened the door for those solicitations by defunding BWA.

"You should have told the SBC Executive Committee that severing connections with the BWA would leave us free to ask Southern Baptist churches and individuals to replace the funds withheld," McCall, one of the most influential Southern Baptists in history, told Chapman in an open letter Dec. 21.

McCall, former president of BWA and former president of two SBC seminaries, convened a meeting of retired SBC leaders Dec. 4 in Atlanta to find ways to replace the money — until recently \$425,000 a year —

the Southern Baptist Convention used to provide BWA, an international umbrella group of 211 Baptist bodies.

The SBC was a founding member of the alliance in 1905 and its largest member and fund-provider, but conservative Southern Baptist leaders who led the defunding effort say BWA harbors theological liberalism, a charge denied by BWA and many of its member groups worldwide.

Chapman, in a statement released Dec. 13, said the make-up of the Atlanta meeting, as well as other indicators, demonstrate the moderate theological slant of BWA. "When you connect the dots, it is clear that the BWA leadership will remain moderate-leaning in its relationships and theology and opposed to the best interests of Southern Baptists," Chapman wrote.

In his open letter of response Dec. 21, McCall said Chapman "invented charges" of liberalism against BWA and Denton Lotz, its general secretary, in order to convince Southern

Baptists to break off their 99-year relationship with the group. The SBC's real motivation for the break, McCall said, was that it opposed admission of the rival Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) into BWA.

"The truth is that Chapman and his colleagues were members of the BWA General Council," McCall wrote. "But they could not run the BWA as they do the SBC."

McCall, age 90, who retired as president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 1982, said he worked with or against "almost every Southern Baptist leader in the 20th century," including infamous fundamentalist J. Frank Norris and Baptist statesman Louie Newton.

"I have never questioned the integrity of any of them..." he wrote, but he added, "This new gang plays rough and twists the truth into lies."

McCall said the SBC leaders misrepresented the views of CBF, American Baptists, and other BWA member groups. Chapman, he added, "attacks

Dr. Denton Lotz, the general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, with innuendoes and untruths. Lotz is a biblical fundamentalist, as am I, who believes the Bible should be read under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is not an ammunition dump of verses and phrases to defend one's turf or attack opponents."

"Remember, mud slung is ground lost," McCall added. "The SBC is a great body of Christians who ought to make decisions on the basis of truth."

In a statement Dec. 29, Chapman responded, "I regret that McCall chose to speak against the decision of the committee and the convention and in support of the BWA, but I honor his right to do so. At the same time, his personal attack upon the integrity of the committee members and the process is unwarranted. McCall is speaking from a vacuum. He has not been an active participant in the BWA in recent years. He is parroting what he has been told by BWA officials..."



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)
- But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

WHY? WHY? WHY?

To put it simply, the "why" questions of life are the unanswerable questions of life. We can ask the why questions regardless of the circumstances. Though all of us from time to time will ask why, we oftentimes do not expect an answer. If we got one, we might not understand it and honestly, if we got the answer we might not want to hear the answer. I am fairly confident that there are times when we ask why when we know the answer. I have known people who smoked heavily for decades, developed lung cancer, and died from the disease. Invariably, someone asked, "Why would God give someone a disease like that or allow them to go through that kind of agony?" You want to say, "Well, God is not the one who gave them cancer." The decisions, habits, and choices that we make often shape the conditions we are in, but so often there is not an appropriate moment to say those kinds of things because they sound harsh or hurtful and you don't intend for them to be. The why questions will always be with us. If difficulties come, we wonder why. If God is unusually gracious and bountiful in His blessings, we wonder why. A family tragically loses a loved one and we wonder why. If another family has a member who lives into their hundreds with little quality of life, we wonder why.

It has been some years ago that the whys took on a little bit of a different look and feel for



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

me, and it was not because of some brilliant insight that I had but because of a conversation I had with a man who did have insight. Claude Rhea was a professor at New Orleans Seminary who later headed up the music department and then became a college president. Rhea went to the doctor for what he thought was a rather routine checkup. He never expected to hear what he was told. After running some tests, the doctor told him that he would need to get his affairs in order because he had discovered cancer and that his time would be short. Stunned by the information, he left the doctor's office and as he drove home he wondered how he would tell his wife and children. He began to ask why.

He had been a Christian for years and had been faithfully serving the Lord for decades. Why would this happen to him? He began to ask over and over in various ways, "Lord, why me?" He thought, "I am a Christian. I have dedicated my life to the Lord. I am a seminary professor. I have tried to love others, help them, and be a good steward of the talents and resources I have received." So

he agonized over the why. After thinking about his illness and getting over the initial shock, he began to ask a different, yet equally probing why question. He asked himself and even the Lord, "Well, why not me? I am no different from everyone else on the earth. I am a sinner saved by grace. Why not me? There have been far more gifted people and far better people than I am who have suffered. Innocent people have labored under the weight of trials. Why should I be any different, and why should I think I am even more special than they are that God should protect me from any of the ills or problems of life? Lord, why not me?"

Over a period of time, thought, and prayer, he reached a place of calmness and peace within himself. If others had gone through difficulties and other saints had experienced cancer and even death, he by God's grace could face it too. You can imagine the days, weeks, and months that were ahead, for although the prognosis was rather bleak, there were things that would need to be done. There was surgery involved and then fol-

low-up treatment for the cancer. Lo and behold, with an army of people praying and gifted physicians used by the hands of the Great Physician, things began to change. In time, he was healed. At that point he began to ask, "Lord, why me? Why would God heal me and not heal others? Why would He choose to pour out His grace on me? God is no respecter of persons, but why would He appear to be more gracious to some people than to others?"

It is baffling to try to figure out the whys. You may be asking why in your life and unable to come to any answers or conclusions. You may ask why related to your children, your job, the breaks that others get, or the burdens that you carry. Some of you may be facing health issues, or wealth issues, or lack of wealth issues. Maybe your whys have to do with storms, flat tires, wars, warts, or weight? The whys are attached to almost anything and everything to which human beings are attached. So what do you do? You trust God! When you are baffled by it all, you trust God. When you understand what is going on and when you don't understand, you still trust Him. Through it all you lean on His strong arms for your strength and you trust Him. In time you may even see your "why" turn into "wow."

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Bibliocipher

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PMA NRS LEO MP NRS

VMAL ZT KSEA GUMK

EVV NRS RSENRSK: ET

NRMG RETN LMKS, ZN

TREVV JS LMKS GKNM

NRSS: NRO ASHEAL

TREVV ASNGAK GUMK

NRZKS MHK RSEL

MIJELZER MKS: PZPNSSK

Clue: L = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos 8:12

Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit opening in Mobile

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Seven of the oldest surviving biblical scrolls are coming to Mobile, Ala., this month. After successful runs in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Houston, the traveling Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit opened in Mobile's Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center on Jan. 20.

With 12 authentic Dead Sea Scrolls on loan from the Israeli Antiquities Authority, the exhibit will not disappoint its many visitors. The Exploreum will host the traveling exhibit through April 24.

New Orleans Seminary is a sponsoring institution for the event and will contribute several of the seminary's artifacts to the exhibit, according to Stephen Ortiz, assistant professor of archaeology and director of the Center for Archaeological Research at the seminary.

"The highlight [of the exhibit] will be the Deuteronomy scroll that has the entire text of the Ten Commandments," said Ellen Herron curator for the exhibit. "This is such a rare opportunity."

In addition to the Deuteronomy scroll, the exhibit includes six other 2,000-year-old biblical scrolls with the oldest surviving text of Genesis, Leviticus, Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and Jeremiah. The

remaining five scroll fragments are sectarian documents found at the Qumran site in Israel.

Discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd boy, the Dead Sea Scrolls are the most famous and important find in the history of biblical archaeology. The discovery, excavations and resulting research has confirmed and helped ensure the reliability of the Old Testament text found in modern translations of the Bible.

Herron was surprised to discover just how accurately current Bible translations have preserved the text found in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Over thousands of years, she said the text has "stayed so true."

Unlike the exhibits in Grand Rapids and Houston, Herron said the Mobile stop will focus heavily on the biblical texts. The other exhibits included fewer biblical scrolls and more sectarian documents from Qumran.

"In Mobile, we decided that, due to the nature of the community and the region, we thought it would be particularly meaningful if there were a larger group of biblical scrolls," Herron said. "This will be the largest grouping of biblical scrolls ever shown together in the United States."

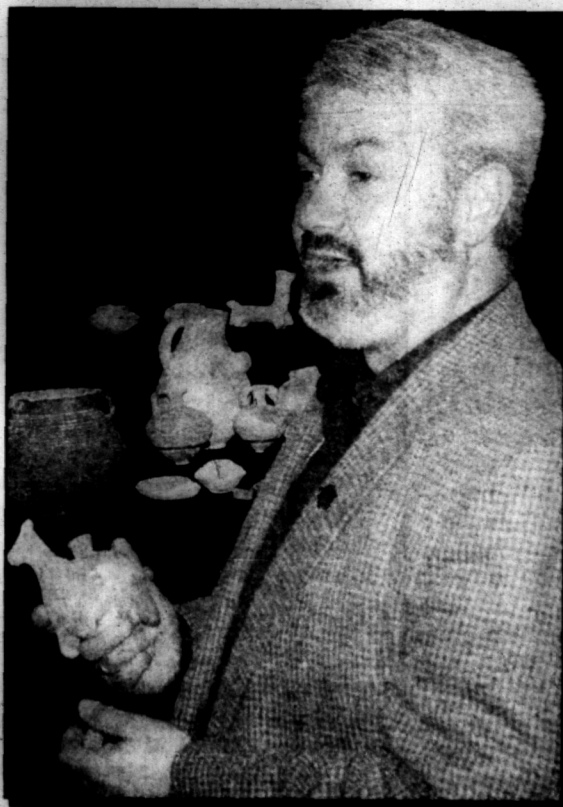
The exhibit has exceeded all attendance expectation at two previous showings. At the Houston stop, 10,000 people viewed the scrolls in one day. On Jan. 2, the last day of the exhibit in Houston, the museum was open until 3 a.m. to allow more people to experience the scrolls.

Herron said the exhibit offers insight into Qumran and its residents through artifacts and a scale model of the community. Scholars believe the people living in Qumran were from the Essene sect of Judaism — a group focused on lives of purity and prayer. In 68 A.D. the Roman army destroyed Qumran, but failed to discover the scrolls stored in a nearby cave.

Visitors will learn about the different types of literature present at Qumran and about the three languages (Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic) represented in the scrolls. This section also explains the research and resulting publication of the texts found in the scrolls.

Another section details the excavation efforts in a cave near Qumran. In all, archaeologists uncovered 100,000 scroll fragments during their digs in the desert cave.

Tickets for the exhibit are \$17 for adults, \$15 for senior adults (60 and older) and youth ages 13-18. Admission for children is \$12. Additional information about the Exploreum and the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit is available at www.scrollsmobile.com.



Ortiz

JUST FOR THE RECORD

The **Men's Ministry Department of the MBCB** will host a men's conference, *Serving Shoulder to Shoulder*, January 28-29 at First Church, Madison. Events will include a wild game supper on Friday night and break-out events on Saturday. Jim Futral and Danny Singleton will be the featured speakers with music provided by Pure Gospel. Cost for the conference is \$10. For more information call (601)232-3334.

Evansville Church, Coldwater, recently licensed Levi Lance to the gospel ministry. Lance is a student at Northwest Community College, Senatobia, and is BSU president. Shown are Lance, left, and David Worley, pastor of Evansville Church.

Sallis Church, Sallis, recently licensed Nick King to the ministry. King is director of the children and youth ministry at Sallis Church and is a student at Mississippi College. Shown, from left, are Thomas Wicker, pastor; King; and Ann King.

West Heights Church, Pontotoc, recently licensed Matt Wallace to the ministry. Wallace is serving as youth minister at Oak Forest Church, Jackson. Shown, from left, are Wallace and David Hamilton, pastor, West Heights Church.

Steele Church, Scott Association, recently held a baby dedication. Shown are Jacob and Ethan Goss, children of John and Cassandra Goss, and Patrick Dearing, son of Dean and Brenda Dearing.

Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto, recently held a Girls in Action recognition service. Shown are the participants.

Washington Church, Washington, exceeded its goal of \$2,700 for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Total receipts were \$2,893.05.

Greater Vision in concert, Jan. 21, 7 p.m., at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Rea Auditorium, Wesson. Reserved seating, \$15; general admission, \$12. Sponsored by Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven. For ticket information, phone (601) 833-8018 or (601) 835-1589.

First Church, Columbia, will host their annual women's conference Feb. 4 - 5. Special guest, Becky Freeman Johnson. Cost: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. For information, phone (601) 736-0829.

January Bible Study, Emmanuel Church, Walnut Grove, Jan. 27-29, 6:30 p.m. Mark's Gospel, Hope: When Believers Struggle, by D. L. Lowrie, study title. Led by Don Savell, evangelist.

Edon Church, Stringer, with registration at 4:30 p.m.; will host their fourth annual a soup and salad supper, 5 women's conference Jan. 29, p.m.; and guest speaker



Thomas Wicker, pastor; Nick & Ann King



Steele Church Baby Dedication, Scott Association



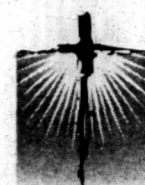
Girls in Action, Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto

Tommie Lowery, Laurel. Music by Sheltering Tree from Mississippi College. RSVP to (601) 729-2693 by Jan. 25.

Tate Church, Corinth, gave \$20,745 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, surpassing their goal of \$20,000. Greg Thomas, pastor.

Bala Chitto Church, Magnolia, recently licensed Richard J. Scoggins, Jr., to the

ministry. Scoggins plans to attend New Orleans Seminary.



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Matt Wallace & David Hamilton



Levi Lance & David Worley, Evansville Church

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, will host Brian Free and Assurance Jan. 23, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

Calvary Church, Jackson, will host Dolores Hydock performing Pennies, Perfume, and Potato Salad: Stories to Celebrate Women's Lives, Jan. 25, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Dinner is followed by the story concert and dessert. No admission charged, but a love offering to benefit the Christian Women's Job Corps will be accepted. For information, phone (601) 331-7074.

Campers on Mission report they led five revivals in 2004. At each of these revivals there were from five to ten rigs with up to 21 campers present. From these revivals several professions of faith were made, and many rededications and other decisions.

Students of Bethesda Church, Terry, collected, decorated, and sent over 100 packages to Operation Christmas Child.

The preschool choir of **Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur,** participated in Christmas musicals at the church during December. Shown are the preschool choir members.

Mission Seekers of Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur, enjoyed a progressive missions party. Members attending brought items to be shared with "adopted" individuals for Christmas. Shown are the participants.

Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian, surpassed its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. A Lottie Moon doll in the sanctuary reminded church members of the offering, and tea cakes were distributed to members as a reminder of how Lottie Moon was responsible for sharing the gospel.

Doug Greengard, New Orleans Saints chaplain, will speak at **Castlewoods Church, Brandon,** Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. For information, phone (601) 992-1478.

First Church Sharon, Laurel, will host Downhere in concert Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$10 for groups of 10 or more, and \$14 at the door. Proceeds will benefit and endow the Kevin M. Todd Memorial Scholarship at Southern Seminary. For information, phone (601) 785-4380.

Olive Church, Lumberton, sent four men along with six

others form the Pearl River Association to Morelia, Mexico this past summer to assist in a total saturation project. Another Olive member, Kristen Carter, served in Hesperia, Cal., as a Summer Sojourner. Shown are Wordie Carrol, swapping shoes with an unidentified Mexican man. Also pictured, from left, are Larry Haik, Brad Smith, and Rick Kohnke.

Harrisville Church, Harrisville, will host Dogwood Cross Jan. 23 at 10 a.m., for Men's Brotherhood Day. The public is invited.

Old Fashioned Day at Pearlhaven Church, Brookhaven, will be Jan. 23 at

10:30 a.m. Jimmy Houston and Johnny Sykes, speaking. For information, phone (601) 833-7665 or (601) 833-9583.

Calvary Church, Braxton, celebrated WMU Hats Off to Lottie Moon. Guest speaker was Evelyn Williams,

Hickory. Shown are some of the participants.

Maybank Church, Hattiesburg, will host the Stamps Quartet in concert Feb. 5, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken.



Calvary Church WMU, Braxton



Mexico Mission Trip, Olive Church, Lumberton



Lottie Moon Doll, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian



Preschool Choir of Clark-Venable Church, Decatur




Mission Seekers of Clark-Venable, Decatur


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NAMES IN THE NEWS

Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain, honored pastor Tom Sumrall on his 50th anniversary of being ordained to the ministry. Shown are Sumrall and his wife, Jane.

Tate Church, Corinth, ordained Garion Dillingham and Kevin Mitchell as deacons. Shown, from left, are Mitchell; Gregg Thomas, pastor; and Dillingham.

Macedonia Church, Blue Mountain, ordained Kenny Roberson as deacon. Shown, from left, are Edd McCafferty, pastor; Lawrence Lowrey, James Henry, Bruce Thornton,

Roberson, and Billy Joshlin, deacons.

Oak Grove Church, Tolarville, ordained Jack Spencer, Paul Winstead, Leslie Burden, Robert Dickard, and Allen Winstead as deacons. Shown, from left, are Spencer, P. Winstead, Burden, Dickard, A. Winstead; Jim Yates, retired pastor of First, Yazoo City; and Gage Hynum, pastor.

Hardy Church, Grenada, gave a ministerial scholarship to Blue Mountain College to Jeffrey Harrison, Belmont.

Johns Church, Brandon, licensed Bobby Ford, minister of students, and John Foster, minister of music, to the ministry. Shown, from left, are Ford; Jeff Harrison, pastor; and Foster.



Bobby Ford, Jeff Harrison, pastor; John Foster



Oak Grove Church Deacon Ordination, Holmes Association



Macedonia Church Deacon Ordination, Blue Mountain



Tate Church Deacon Ordination, Corinth



Jane & Tom Sumrall, Lowrey Memorial Church

www.mbc.org

OBITUARIES

Hugh L. Poole, 77, Meridian, died Dec. 29 at Heartfelt Hospice in Meridian. Poole was a retired pastor and chaplain at Rush Foundation Hospital and a U. S. Coast Guard World War II veteran. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Kennedy Poole of Meridian; two sons, Larry H. Poole of Brandon and Brad E. Poole of Shuqualak; three brothers; and five grandchildren.

Leo Timms, 73, pastor of Gunnison Church, Gunnison, died on Dec. 28. Timms was a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and Mississippi College. He is survived by his wife, Sherry, and four daughters.



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COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

The Opera Department of the Winters School of Music at William Carey College (WCC) will present the comic operas *Gallantry*, by Douglas Moore; *The Boor*, by Dominic Argento; and *The Impresario*, by W. A. Mozart. The faculty-performed one-act *The Impresario* features New York City Opera/Metropolitan Opera tenor Don Frazure, who is currently Vocal Artist-in-Residence at the Winters School of Music, in the

title role of *The Impresario*, Mr. Cash. Performances are Jan. 20, 7 p.m., and Jan. 22, 2 p.m., in the O. L. Quave Theatre on the WCC campus. Tickets, \$8, general admission and \$5, senior citizens and students. Phone (601) 318-6175 for information.

An exhibit of African-American Artists in the Sarah Gillespie Collection will be on display at the Lucile Parker Gallery, WCC Hattiesburg cam-

pus. The exhibit opened Jan. 13 and will hang through Mar. 11, and can be viewed during the regular gallery hours, 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Phone (601) 318-6192 for information.

Samuel Marshall Gore Art Gallery, Mississippi College (MC), will feature Texas artist Susan Sitzes in a one-woman show. The show runs through Feb. 24, and there is no charge. The Gore Gallery is open to the public Mon. - Fri. from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The MC Singers will hold a special benefit concert Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m., in Swor Auditorium. The Singers were one of fewer than 20 choirs from across the country selected to perform at the national convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Los Angeles in February. Door prizes, such as a cruise and a week in Seaside, Fla., will be given. Tickets are \$40 and are available at the door. Phone (601) 925-3440 for information.

William Carey College will host *Extreme Makeover* during homecoming, Jan. 21-22. Friends of the college, prospective students, and alumni and their families are encouraged to

participate. For more information, call the alumni office at (601) 318-6167 or (800) 962-5991 or visit www.wmcarey.edu.

Mississippi College's Career Fair is set for Feb. 8 and is open to all students and alumni of MC. Employers interested in attending may contact Suzi Nyberg at (601) 925-3901 or may register online at www.mc.edu/career.

Twenty-five MC students are participating in the spring semester in London. The group will leave this month and will tour Europe in April at the conclusion of the semester. Shown are the 2005 participants.



Mississippi College Singers



Mississippi College London Students



WCC Extreme Makeover

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Grace Memorial Church, Glen Draper, Gary Dover, Jim Lott, and Graham Smith, music. Jerry Nance, pastor.

Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg: Revival, Jan. 23-26; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Carroll Roberson, evangelist.

Le Moyne Boulevard Church, Biloxi: Revival, Feb. 20-23; Sunday, 8:30, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Carroll Roberson, Ripley, evangelist; Bill Renick, pastor.



Roberson

MS POSITIONS

FLOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, Flowood, Miss., is currently seeking a part-time nursery worker to work during regular church services and occasional special rehearsal services. Please send your resume and references to personnel committee, 1649 Old Fannin Road, Flowood, MS 39232.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hernando, Miss., is seeking a spiritually mature, aggressive, motivated, outgoing team member to lead the Lord's church in its Educational Ministry. Parkway is a growing church with unlimited potential. Please pray about this, and if the Lord is leading you, contact personnel committee at: 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. Fax is (662) 429-6076, or email bailey_pbc@yahoo.com.

RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking qualified individuals to work extended care hours for children ages birth through five years each Sunday and Wednesday evening. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and will be required to submit to an interview process and background check. All interested parties should contact the church office at 601-372-6154.

Bethesda Church, Fayette: Revival, Jan. 30 - Feb. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m.; and dinner on the grounds; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Phillip Hemby, Brookhaven, evangelist; Carl Mason, pastor.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Reach Beyond Ethnic Barriers

Luke 10:25-37

By Frances C. Graham

"Love your neighbor as yourself." (v. 27) Is it difficult? It can be sometimes. Is it impossible? No, Jesus commands it so it is possible. What must we do to be able to love our neighbor as our self? In Luke 10, Jesus responds to this topic.

As Jesus was teaching, a lawyer stood to ask Him a question. (For background, a lawyer in the Jewish community was an expert in the religious teachings of the Mosaic law rather than an advocate in the courts. Such a profession studied God's law continually, interpreting it so the people would know how to obey it. A lawyer normally helped administer justice in the Jewish system and was a well respected member of the community.)

"Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 25) The question is asked to embarrass Jesus rather than to truly learn the answer though eternal life is a topic that receives much debate. (18:18)

Jesus responds with a counter question asking how the law addresses this issue. By doing so, Jesus shows by implication that He is not teaching a new doctrine, but adhering to the basic principles of God's law.

The lawyer responds by restating a composite of Deut. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." (v. 27) The first was a part of the Jewish Shema,



Graham

or creed, which was recited in the synagogue worship. The heart is the inner life, not necessarily only emotion. The soul is the personality, the conscious being. The strength is physical strength. The mind is the capacity to think. By loving the Lord with all one's heart, soul, strength and mind, one truly loves God more than himself. In so doing, one acknowledges that God is infinitely perfect, excellent and amiable in and of Himself. He must have our entire love and be served by all that is within us.

Jesus responds to the lawyer noting that he had answered correctly and if he did this then life eternal would be his. The lawyer is not content but rather he wanted to justify his own actions and asks, "who is my neighbor?" (v. 29)

Jesus then shares the parable of the man who was beaten, robbed and stripped of his

clothing and left to die on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. He tells of how the priest came down the road and when he saw the brother (probably a Jew since Jesus did not state otherwise) he crossed to the opposite side. Then the Levite came down the road and when he saw the brother, he paused and looked and then passed on the other side of the road.

Then along came the Samaritan who when he saw the stranger had compassion in his heart for the man. Now you must realize that the Samaritans were scorned by Jews because they descended from Gentile ancestry and they did not follow the orthodox Judaism practices as in Jerusalem but instead worshiped in Mount Gerizim maintaining their own priesthood.

Now when the Samaritan went to the injured man, he made the bandages and used wine to disinfect the wounds, and oil as a soothing lotion. He then placed the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn where he cared for him. The

next day the Samaritan had to leave but he gave the innkeeper two denarii (which is about two days wages) to cover the costs of caring for the man. He further told the innkeeper to keep up with his expenses and that he would cover them.

Jesus then asks which of the three showed mercy on the man. Jesus' teaching on love is not limited by its object but rather by the willingness to see others in their needful state. Love is demonstrated in action and in this case mercy. It may be costly but the price is never too high to respond.

The question is: "What must we do to be able to love our neighbor as our self?" The answer is until we are willing to put God first in our lives, we are not able love our neighbor unconditionally. When we give our heart, soul, strength, and mind to the Lord, then and only then can we love our neighbor without any reservations.

Graham is a member of Adaton Church, Starkville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

What About Heavenly Rewards?

Luke 19:12-27

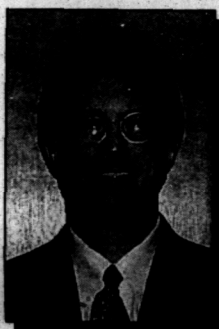
By Neil Gant

Turning the responsibility of a task over to someone else means trusting them. When you do this you have an expectation that the job will be done. The Lord Jesus has entrusted us with a task and a great responsibility. He has entrusted us with the message of the Gospel. The Lord Jesus just finished a great encounter with Zacchaeus. After this event He spoke a parable. The purpose of the parable had to do with what people thought about the Kingdom of God. Many people thought the Kingdom was about to appear in its fullness. They looked at the Kingdom as something that involved outward, earthly splendor. On more than one occasion, the people tried to make the Lord Jesus into an earthly king. The Lord Jesus however proclaimed a Kingdom that is not limited to one nation and its

outward or visible manifestation is not a matter of the immediate future. The main point of the words of the Lord in the parable are to be faithful in the performance of God-given abilities.

FAITHFULNESS IS EXPECTED, LUKE 19:12-14

The nobleman was going to another country to receive a kingdom and then he was going to return. Since he was going to be gone for a while, he gave some instructions to his servants. He gave ten of his servants ten minas to do business for him while he was gone. The people he was going to reign over did not want him and sent word to him letting him know their sentiment. These people represented the Jews who were rejecting the Messiah. He is the stone the builders rejected



Gant

that became the chief cornerstone.

Who does this nobleman represent? None other than the Lord Jesus. When the Lord finished His work, He would ascend to the Father. After a long but indefinite time, the Lord would return. The nobleman in the parable called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. A mina was a Greek coin worth 100 drachmas. A drachma was a day's wage. The mina was about 100 day's wages. The nobleman told them to do business. He expected faithfulness. For the believer, the mina represents the responsibilities of the followers of the Lord Jesus to do business with that which we have been given. We are to live life to the Glory of God.

FAITHFULNESS IS REWARDED, LUKE 19:15-19

The two servants mentioned in this text made an effort to work for the king while he was away. The first showed that the original

pound gained ten more and the second showed that the original gained five more. He gave them authority over cities equal to the number of pounds gained. When Jesus returns He will give His faithful servants an opportunity for even greater service in the new heaven and the new earth. The Lord mentioned in the parable that the servants had been faithful in something little. Even those with limited opportunities and gifts are responsible to the serve the Lord wisely and therefore receive great reward on their investment.

UNFAITHFULNESS IS DISPLEASING, LUKE 19:20-23

The wicked servant kept the pound hidden. He was not really a believer. He only had the name of one. He accused the nobleman of being an austere (stern) or grossly unfair. The master told him that his own words judged him. If it were so that the nobleman was such a man as described by the servant, he could at least have put the money in the bank to gain interest. If we are unfaithful, then we displease the Lord.

We also waste opportunities of service for the Lord. As the old saying goes, If you please God it does not matter whom you displease and if you displease God it does not matter whom you please.

UNFAITHFULNESS IS COSTLY, LUKE 19:24-27

The nobleman took the pound away and gave it to the one who had ten. The one who serves the Lord becomes richer and richer. The one who rejects the Lord and has become poor as a result, will find that in the judgment even that he thought he had will be taken away. An unfaithful person loses. The unbeliever loses because he or she is separated from the Lord for eternity. The believer who chooses to be unfaithful loses as well. He or she loses the privilege of service. He or she loses out on blessings and rewards. If a person wants to follow the Lord, he or she must recognize Him as Lord and King. Nothing less will do.

Gant is pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Gore Springs.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in the Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

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THE BAPTIST
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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mrs. Jo Jones
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Mrs. Jo Jones
Naomi Barnette
Mrs. Jo Jones
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Wilma Fulton
Arva Blocker
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Mrs. Mildred Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Holloway
Mrs. Mildred Branson
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Ms. Margaret Ann Finnie
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Glenna & Jeff Hartson
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Patricia Hasselmann
Mrs. Carol Baxter
William Havens
Tommy & Memorie Naron
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Haynie

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Mr. & Mrs. Carroll E. Jarvis
Barbara Wolfe
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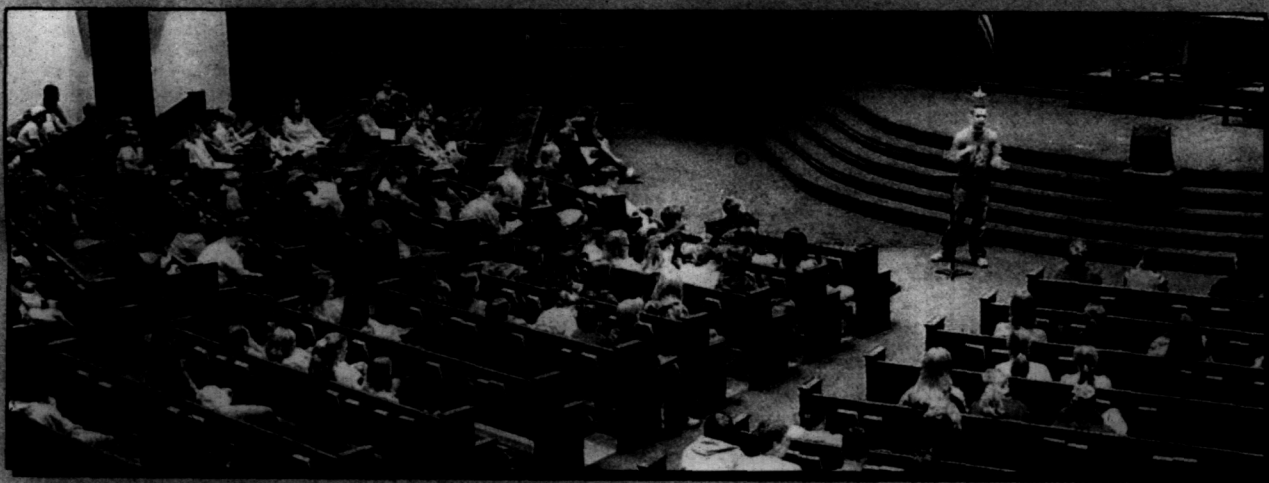
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Clayton Walker Hamric
Miss Alva Merle Blanton
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Theresa Hesler
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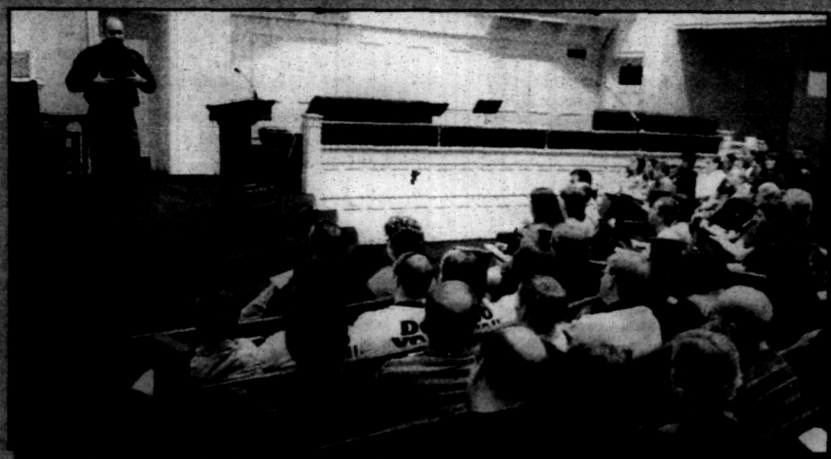
Youth Evangelism Conference

December 30 - 31, 2004

Mississippi College, Clinton




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